

# vital connections



Gail Donner

## Message from the Dean

IT IS A PLEASURE to be able to share my thoughts with you after six months as Dean of the Faculty of

Nursing. Without a doubt, one of the highlights of what has been a very busy time for me was the reception held on December 13th, where I had an opportunity to meet and greet so many of you. Over 150 alumni joined us, and their enthusiasm and interest in the Faculty's activities were overwhelming. Thanks to those of you who were there and a special thank you to so many others of you who wrote, called, and sent e-mail messages to let us know what you've been doing and to express your interest in developments at the Faculty. At the reception we also launched our new website, [www.nursing.utoronto.ca](http://www.nursing.utoronto.ca), and used the opportunity to show off our new "look." In fact this new image has also been extended to this newsletter. We hope you like it.

The University is currently engaged in a thoughtful process of self-examination and planning for the next five years. This activity, aptly named *Raising Our Sights*, will set the future direction of the University. The Faculty of Nursing is in the midst of developing our plan to participate in that future. Our goal is to be the best Faculty of Nursing in Canada and among the best in North America. To succeed, we need to recruit the best faculty and the brightest students, and to create an environment — both physical and virtual — that supports the advancement of nursing (cont. on pg. 2)

## Moving Forward

I AM DELIGHTED to join the dedicated team at the Faculty of Nursing as the new Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

The Faculty is a vibrant place where many exciting things are happening. These include significant curriculum changes, numerous lectures given by our nursing professionals, the participation of our students and faculty in local, regional, national, and international conferences, the Cressy and Arbor award presentations, as well as various alumni activities, like Spring Reunion.

Another wonderful development is the new *Think Nursing* logo that

appears on all of our print materials. Our website has also been enhanced. I invite you to visit it at [www.nursing.utoronto.ca](http://www.nursing.utoronto.ca) to find out



Tina Leslie

about all the upcoming lectures, conferences, and awards that enrich the experiences (cont. on pg. 2)

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## upcoming events

Please visit our website at [www.nursing.utoronto.ca](http://www.nursing.utoronto.ca) for more details regarding these and other events.



**RESEARCH DAY**  
Tuesday, 25 April 2000

**SPRING REUNION**  
Saturday, 3 June 2000



**HEALTH CARE IN A COMPLEX WORLD:  
AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE**  
3-4 May 2001

(Moving, cont. from pg. 1) of students, faculty, the community, and other members of the profession.

In keeping with our new look, *Vital Connections* has been redesigned and expanded to reflect the new image and focus. We hope you enjoy this new publication. Future issues will include articles about our students, faculty, alumni events, educational programs, and award-winning research activities.

Our goal at the Faculty is to create a professional environment where students can learn in state-of-the-art classrooms and research facilities, be taught by the most distinguished faculty, and have access to the finest resource supports. In order to provide this dynamic environment and enhance

the learning experience, we have made graduate student support a key priority. Increasing numbers of our graduate students are mature people with complex lives and a variety of obligations. Thanks to the generous support of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Heart and Stroke Foundation, and University of Toronto Foundation, with matching funding provided by the Government of Ontario and the University of Toronto, three graduate students will be able to devote more of their time to their studies.

If you would like to know more about our student support needs and how you can help, please contact me by phone at 416-978-2861 or by e-mail at [t.leslie@utoronto.ca](mailto:t.leslie@utoronto.ca).

(Dean, cont. from pg. 1) practice, research, and education. We believe we are well positioned to achieve our goal, but obviously it will take work.

Some of that work will be in the form of curriculum revision, development of courses, and recruitment of faculty to enhance our expertise and replace faculty who are retiring. We have launched new programs, including a second-entry undergraduate program that graduated its first class last fall, a joint MN/MBA Program, and a post-Masters Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Diploma. This spring we will graduate the last class in the four-year BScN — we have had a proud tradition, and we will be celebrating that graduation in a special way. Our new infrastructure includes an Associate Dean, Education, Professor Donna Wells and an Associate Dean, Research, Professor Ruth Gallop, who guide our educational and research programs. Ms Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman, our Assistant Dean, provides direction in ensuring administrative support and in helping us maintain this old and clearly inadequate building.

No doubt we will need help as we move forward to reach our goals. And some of the help will come from an alumni development and fundraising strategy that will enable us to enhance student support. Our students are mature men and

## Centre for the Study of Pain



Judy Watt-Watson, Gail Donner and Dorothy Pringle at the reception and ribbon cutting ceremony.

THE FACULTY OF NURSING IS PLEASED TO BE ONE of the founding members of the Centre for the Study of Pain. This unique interdisciplinary collaboration includes the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. It is a very exciting time for studies in pain as we are now at the threshold of new understanding of key issues in pain mechanisms and management that will serve to revolutionize the treatment of pain.



women who have complex lives and diverse responsibilities. The financial burden is a very real barrier to their continuing education. We would like to be able to increase the number of awards we have available so that nurses who want to study and learn can do so with a little more ease. To help us with this task, we have recently appointed a Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Tina Leslie. Please read Tina's message elsewhere in this newsletter. I am excited about the possibilities and know that our alumni and our alumni association will be ready to help when we call on you — and call on you we will! We can't get to where we want to go as a Faculty and help nursing be where we want it to be unless we all work together.

As we plan to make the baccalaureate degree the requirement for entry to practice by the year 2005, we think the Faculty of Nursing will have an important contribution to make — to nurture the future leaders in practice, education, and research and to be a model for others to follow. I feel privileged to be able to act as Dean during these exciting times. If you would like to talk to me at any time, please call me at 416-978-2862 or e-mail me at [g.donner@utoronto.ca](mailto:g.donner@utoronto.ca). Let's make the future a team effort!

think think think

SATURDAY, 3 JUNE 2000 Faculty of Nursing  
8:30 - 10:00 AM 50 St. George Street  
Room 201

- Complimentary Brunch
- *How High Can We Fly: Raising Our Sights*
- Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation
- Alumni Association's Annual General Meeting

Please join Dr. Gail Donner, Dean, to discuss her vision for the future. Share your special memories of the Faculty's past as we celebrate our 80th anniversary and look to the future.

University-wide events will be held for graduating classes with a year ending in a "0" or a "5."

Please RSVP by Friday, 26 May 2000 to Francine Cohen by phone at 416-978-4786 or by e-mail to [francine.cohen@utoronto.ca](mailto:francine.cohen@utoronto.ca)



Heather Watson

## Message from the Nursing Alumni Association President

I AM PLEASED TO BE representing you as the new President of the Faculty of Nursing Alumni Association (FNAA). Having pursued my undergraduate and graduate education at the Faculty and having had several years of Alumni Executive experience, I trust that I will be in good standing to serve in this position.

New directions taken in nursing education and health care by the faculty ensure that U of T nursing students are well prepared to meet the challenges of the nursing profession after graduation. Alumni can participate in the continuous learning process and help our students. An important focus of the FNAA this year will be to investigate the possibility of a mentorship program to support, guide, and provide networking opportunities for our undergraduate students. The FNAA will also continue looking for new opportuni-

ties to support students and the faculty, increase participation of the Alumni Executive in activities, and represent the nursing alumni at various university and nursing community events.

The Alumni Association sponsors numerous educational and social events that foster networking among nursing alumni. The FNAA also supports scholarships and programs for both alumni and students. Our work is made possible through gifts to the Annual Fund. I encourage you to consider becoming an annual contributor, and thank you for your ongoing generosity.

If you would like to participate in, or provide financial support for, the mentorship program, please contact me by e-mail at [heather.watson@sickkids.on.ca](mailto:heather.watson@sickkids.on.ca).

I am enthusiastic and excited over the possibilities for the upcoming year. Let's make it a great one!!



# The Distinguished Alumni Award

THE FACULTY OF NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION at the University of Toronto invites nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is bestowed annually to acknowledge a graduate of the Faculty who has made an exceptional contribution to nursing.

Qualities that should guide your decision to nominate someone should include the following:

- Has pursued a career in nursing with enthusiasm and energy;
- Is recognized by peers as outstanding in terms of clinical practice, teaching, research, policy development, or administration;
- Projects a positive image of nursing as a career;
- Has current knowledge of issues, directions, and developments in nursing;
- Makes you proud to know her/him as a nurse and as a U of T graduate.

The Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented during Spring Reunion in June of 2000. Previous winners are: Myrna Slater (1991), Josephine Flaherty (1992), Eleanor Ross (1993), Denise Alcock (1994), Linda O'Brien-Pallas (1994), Bettina Braj (1995), Gail Mitchell (1996), Syringa Marshall-Burnett (1997), Margaret Risk (1998), and Judith Britnell (1999).

If you know any alumni who deserve this recognition, please contact the Alumni Office, 416-978-4786 or e-mail [francine.cohen@utoronto.ca](mailto:francine.cohen@utoronto.ca), to request a nomination form.

Completed nomination forms must be received by Wednesday, 19 April 2000.

## A Bequest for Nursing

*Every bequest, regardless of its size, is welcome and will help the Faculty of Nursing meet the challenges and take advantage of the many opportunities that lie ahead.*

*We would be delighted to discuss various funding options with you in strict confidence. To inquire, or to request a free Ways of Giving kit, please contact:*

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[t.leslie@utoronto.ca](mailto:t.leslie@utoronto.ca)



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